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Dairy-Herd-Improvement Letter

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### MORE THAN 2,000,000 ADDITIONAL LACTATION RECORDS BEING USED TO COMPILE UP-TO-DATE DHIA PROVED-SIRE DATA

This month the Branch's automated sire-proving procedures began operating to bring up-to-date all proved-sire data on DHIA sires.

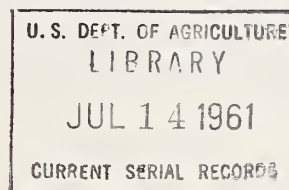
All lactation records received in the Branch up to May 1, 1961 are included in the operation. More than 2,000,000 records are being added to the Master File of approximately 5,000,000 lactation records.

The sire-proving operation is scheduled to be completed in July and August at which time up-to-date proved-sire data will be compiled on thousands of DHIA sires. Proved-sire and daughter-average records will be mailed to the State agricultural colleges in August. The printed DHIA proved-sire lists should be available for distribution in October or November.

### EDITING LACTATION RECORDS

All lactation records are given two thorough edits for errors and discrepancies before they are used in proving sires. The first edit is made of records as they are received from the States. The second edit is made as the new lactation records are placed in the Master File to insure against errors or discrepancies between the new data and that on file.

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Growth Through Agricultural Progress

The first edit of the current operation run of procedures to prove sires has been completed. The following table shows the number of records "pulled" from the incoming data because of apparent errors or discrepancies.

Results of "editing" incoming lactation records to be used to up-date the Master File of lactation records and compile up-to-date proved-sire and daughter-average records.

Breed	Number of records edited	Number of records "pulled"	Percent of records "pulled"	Estimated* percentage of records with errors
Registered:				
Ayrshire	53,105	3,147	5.9	3.0
Guernsey	250,300	15,051	6.0	3.0
Holstein	587,478	28,433	4.8	2.4
Jersey	194,108	14,098	7.3	3.7
Brown Swiss	55,414	4,949	9.9	5.0
M. Shorthorn, R. Dane and R. Poll	11,080	894	8.1	4.0
Total registered	1,151,485	66,572	5.8	2.9
Eartagged cows	1,055,627	108,916	10.3	5.1
Total or average	2,207,112	175,488	8.0	4.0

\*Not all records "pulled" contained errors. If a cow had more than one record in the edit run, an error in any one record caused all records of the cow to be "pulled" for examination. It is estimated that approximately one-half of the "pulled" records contained errors. The estimated number of records containing errors is, therefore, approximately one-half of the percentage of that of "pulled" records.

## SUPERVISOR AND HERD OWNER RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLETE AND ACCURATE IDENTIFICATION DATA REPORTED

Approximately 75 percent of the records with errors that were "pulled" in the edit run contained discrepancies in identification number of the cow, her sire or dam, or her birth date.

Reporting records with errors represents lost effort, time, and money in reporting, in detecting and correcting the errors, and in losses occurring from inaccurate sire-proofs should the errors not be detected. All-out emphasis must be given to the problem of correct identification data. Two persons are basically responsible for correct identification data -- (1) the DHIA supervisor and (2) the herd owner. No one else is in position to assume this basic responsibility.

The DHIA Supervisor has the responsibility of obtaining, recording and reporting identification data.

But, The Herd Owner has the responsibility of providing or assisting the supervisor in obtaining correct identification data.

For registered cows, correct identification data can be obtained from the registration papers. The herd owner must make the registration papers available to the supervisor for checking and reference, and the supervisor must refer to the registration papers.

For eartagged animals the supervisor and the herd owner must work together to develop and maintain correct identification data on every non-registered animal in the herd.

It's a team responsibility - the supervisor and the herd owner. Together they have the basic responsibility of obtaining, recording, and reporting correct identification data that complete and accurate proved-sire data may be compiled.

